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NEB PILOTS MORE EFFICIENT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR SMALL PIPELINES

CALGARY — The National Energy Board (NEB) is piloting a new pipeline application process that will provide more regulatory efficiency while still promoting safety, security and ensuring environmental protection.

The pilot process applies to pipelines that fall under Section 58 of the *National Energy Board Act*, which deals with pipelines that are less than 40 kilometres in length.

If the pilot is successful, the final process will involve an online application form that uses a specific checklist and filing requirements for areas such as consultation, socio-economics, lands, environment, engineering and economics. Under this pilot, the NEB will focus on key issues identified through a project-specific assessment. Issues that can be more effectively addressed during the construction or operation phases will be identified for further NEB action if the project is approved.

The risk-based lifecycle approach will allow NEB staff, project proponents and those with an interest in the project to focus their attention on priority matters at the project approval stage.

"Canadians benefit from energy projects that operate in a safe manner as well as respect the environment and the rights of those affected," says NEB Chair Gaétan Caron. "This pilot will enable the NEB to achieve these outcomes while promoting an effective regulatory review."

The new application process will be in a pilot phase through this fall and winter. After that time, the NEB will review the projects that were evaluated under the pilot and make any necessary changes and improvements before launching the process online in the spring of 2008.

Those interested stakeholders or groups who would like further information or would like to provide feedback on the application process may contact project manager Margaret Barber at 403-299-3652 or 1-800-899-1265.

The NEB is an independent federal agency that regulates several parts of Canada's energy industry. Its purpose is to promote safety and security, environmental protection, and efficient energy infrastructure and markets in the Canadian public interest, within the mandate set by Parliament in the regulation of pipelines, energy development and trade.

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